



“The Power of Prayer”

Keaton’s Story

By—Jay Dempsey

Sunday, March 25, 2012

We received a phone call from our daughter Stacey at about 6pm to tell us that our grandson, Keaton, 21 months old at the time, was stumbling around the house like a drunken-sailor and was unable to stand up straight. Keaton had been running around and getting into mischief just fine earlier in the day.

His condition rapidly worsened. Stacey, and our son-in-law, Neil, took Keaton to a nearby hospital. After a few tests Keaton was moved by ambulance to a highly rated children's hospital where he was admitted and went through more testing.

Monday brought on continued testing with Keaton's condition going down-hill. He was a limp loaf of bread.

On Tuesday results from a CAT scan showed Keaton had suffered brain damage. More and more tests followed but nothing conclusive was determined. Keaton was a lump. He could not swallow or even hold his little head up.

Upon arriving at the hospital on Wednesday morning we found Neil crying and Stacey on a bed holding Keaton. The Metabolic team of doctors had just left the room and told Stacey and Neil that Keaton had less than a year to live. This was the worst moment of our lives. I laid down on the bed, held my daughter and grandson, and prayed.

About an hour later a middle-aged woman, a Neurologist originally from Leningrad, Russia, came in. She told us she had been up all night studying the Catscans and was having a problem with them. The brain damage was symmetrical which did not make sense to her and did not jive with what the Metabolic team was saying. She wanted to try something she had seen work once before; she was going to give Keaton huge doses of Prednisone, a steroid, and told us to "Pray for a miracle." The Metabolic team had written Keaton off, but our Russian Neurologist had given us a ray of hope. Thank goodness she was in charge and had the last say.

Friday arrived and Keaton was still going through a series of tests. The good news was he began to improve. It actually got to a point where we couldn't keep him still. He was unable to walk, but was a bundle of energy. Keaton was constantly getting poked and prodded with IV's and needles. When he would see someone from the medical staff coming his way he voiced his displeasure for all to hear. After the person was finished doing what they had to do, in his weak little voice, "Keats", would always say to the medical person in a gentle tone, "Thank you." Break our hearts.

Keaton was showing definite signs of improvement, yet the Metabolic team continued to be negative about his recovery. They said at the very least Keaton would be disabled.

By Sunday afternoon Keaton was wearing us all down with his new found energy. He couldn't stay still or stop eating. Our Russian Neurologist was off Sunday and one of the top Neurologists at the hospital came by. He told us from what *HE* was seeing that Keaton could expect a complete recovery. Four days after getting the worst news of our lives, we received the best news of our lives. God works in strange ways. Keaton would require some physical therapy, further testing and follow-up, but should recover completely, the doctor said.

Earlier in the day the wife of a friend of Neil's, phoned Neil offering her support and prayers. Neil and Stacey did not know this person nor had they ever spoken with her. Her name .. Mimi. Keaton's grandmother was called Mimi.

We are not Facebook people, nevertheless, while in the hospital Stacey and Neil kept their "friends" up to date and asked for their prayers. These prayers, we have learned, came from all over the United States and even from different countries; from people and churches that didn't know Keaton or any of us.

The power of prayer .. it works.

November, 2012

Like most children Keaton looks forward to his nightly bedtime story. Shortly after Halloween, Keaton, now 2 years and 5 months, asked his mom to read him a particular story. She asked Keaton to get her the book. Keaton grabbed his Children's Bible Storybook which we had given him as a gift. As Stacey was reading the story Keaton asked, "Mom, why is Jesus wearing a Halloween costume?" Stacey told him it wasn't a costume and those were Jesus' clothes. "Then that Jesus is not real," Keaton said. Stacey asked him what he meant to which he responded, "Jesus doesn't look like that, but Jesus is real because in the hospital, he picked me up and saved me." In shock, Stacey called us immediately to share what Keaton had said.

The next day Neil hoped to learn more about what his son had experienced and asked Keaton if he had seen anyone else when we saw Jesus. Keaton said, "Yes, Daddy, I saw the man on the wall." "What man on the wall?", Neil asked. Keaton took his father's hand and went into Stacey and Neil's bedroom. Pointing to a photograph on the wall, Keaton said, "That's the man, Daddy. That's the man I saw." Keaton was pointing to a photo of Neil's father who had passed away one year before Keaton was born.

We hear of miracles like this happening to "other people". This time, I guess, we were the other people.

Spring, 2017

Keaton has undergone an incredible amount of testing over the past five years with the cause of his medical situation in 2012 yet to be determined. Finally a breakthrough. Keaton tested positive for having a genetic metabolic disorder. His body can not metabolize medications such as pain relievers, certain antibiotics, opiates.

We have since learned that Keaton “coded” when he was in the hospital in 2012 causing damage to the myelin sheaths in his brain. He had had a reaction to a fentanyl patch and anesthesia which caused him to stop breathing which lead to the brain damage.

Poor “Keats” had been dealing with a hernia for many months but the surgery had to be put off until a game plan was developed. With a team of twenty medical professionals on hand, Keaton had his hernia surgery on July 7, 2017.

His anesthesiologist, one of the top doctors in his field, came up to Westchester from Philadelphia. He told Stacey and Neil that Keaton has been keeping him up and on his mind for weeks. He admitted he was a nervous wreck. His tact would be to administer a nerve block . two needles into the lower part of Keaton’s body. He was also going to give him gas through a face mask to settle him down along with a grocery list of drugs administered intravenously. The surgery lasted 45 minutes. It took the doctor about a half hour to get a response from Keaton. First his eyes opened, then a smile, and then he spoke. The doctor jumped into the air with excitement. This was the first time he had used this specific procedure. “Now I can go back to Philly and have a beer,” said our hero. Keaton was back home within two hours.

BTW .. The nurse that attended to Keaton had a necklace on with her name on it .. “Mimi”. If you don’t have chills you should immediately dial 9-1-1.

The power of prayer .. It works. God Bless.